

# THE INTELLIGENCER.

PENDLETON & TAYLOR, Editors.

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—WHEELING, VA.—

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 9, 1855.

The Wheeling Stock in the Balt. & Ohio Railroad Company.

The annual interest on the loan made for the purchase of this stock, now operates as a grievous burthen on the real estate, and other taxable property of this city. How long a time we shall be thus oppressed—when, if at all, the company will be enabled to pay cash dividends to its stockholders?—are questions of anxious interest to the people of Wheeling.

We hold 6000 shares of this stock, at a cost of \$500,000, and unlike other stockholders, we have no power of transfer or sale; having hypothecated the stock and its dividends, to indemnify the State of Virginia as guarantor of our bonds.

The nature of such property, require that the proprietor should possess an unrestrained discretion to retain or dispose of it as a sound judgment may dictate. It is, therefore, eminently salutary that the city of Wheeling should acquire an entire mastery over her large investment in this stock. Circumstances may render it expedient to sell developments of the course of trade, not foreseen at the date of our subscription, but now visible to all as events of inevitable certainty; may lessen the estimate heretofore placed upon the prospective value of the stock to produce net income.

The power to dispose of this stock should unquestionably be vested with our city councils.—Wheeling alone of all the stockholders in the road is tied down in a bond to abide the ultimate value of the stock. The city of Baltimore not only possesses this power over her stock, but she has exercised her discretion, and sold large amounts within a year past. In October 1853 Baltimore held 42,582 shares of B. & O. railroad stock—April 1853 she held only 35,893 shares. In the year 1854, and down to April of 1855, the city sold 6700 shares of her stock, and at the present time her confidential committee hold a discretion to watch the markets, and sell at present depreciation if they deem it expedient to do so.

We shall present further our views upon this question. We consider it of first importance to our tax-payers, that this city shall, as speedily as practicable, get from the legislature, full power to control this stock, and to sell it if deemed expedient. There will be no difficulty in procuring this authority from the State, if the proceedings are applied to the extinguishment of the debt, for which the State is bound.

The possession of this power can do us no harm, and it may save us a large share of our investment. The example of Baltimore should be instructive to Wheeling. A debt of \$500,000 is relatively more burthenous to Wheeling, than \$6,000,000 is to Baltimore. Baltimore is selling her stock in the company. Between October 1853 and October 1854, Baltimore sold 4,000 shares, being within 400 shares of the entire stock in the road held by Wheeling. Thus we find the city of Baltimore getting rid of her investment very quietly, but very decisively.

This may be well very indistinct and very bad economy on the part of our neighbors to sell stock at 60 cents on the dollar, which she proclaims to be a nine per cent. stock, (that is to gain nine per cent. net) but nevertheless her acts stand in stubborn disproof of her belief in any such net earnings. Let us place ourselves in a position to use bad economy if we please, and to commit such indiscretions even as our neighbors commit!

Our position enables us to judge the tendency of things, fall out as well as they can in Baltimore. Without expression of any opinion in regard to an immediate sale of stock, it can do us no harm to get the authority and full discretion so to do.

—The Arctic Expedition.

On the 3d of May, two years ago, Dr. Kane sailed from the port of New York in the little bark *Adventure*, with a crew of sixteen men, in search of Sir John Franklin. His vessel was provisioned for a three year's cruise, and it was supposed that his provisions, by dint of fishing and hunting, might be made to last even one or two years longer than that period. He was last heard from in July of 1863, and it is supposed that then he has entered Smith's Sound, and after passing the winter there has probably returned to Cope Alexander where it is known that he intended to leave a magazine of provisions previous to entering the sound. The expedition which went to sea a day or two ago in search of Dr. Kane and his companions consists of the propeller *Aleutian* and the barque *Relieve*, effected and manned as follows:

**BARQUE RELIEVE**—H. J. Hartstein, Lieut. Commanding; William S. Lovell, Acting Master; Joseph P. Fyffe, Passed Midshipman; James Laws, Assistant Surgeon; Chas Lever, Captain's Clerk; R. Hall, Boatswain; John Blinn, Boatswain's Mate; Wm. Smith, Boatswain's Mate; Benjamin Moore, Seaman; William Henry, cook; John Haley, Andrew Latson, William Carey, David Thayer, George Davis, John Smith, William Phinney, Charles Johnson, Thomas Ford, Lewis Lawrence, Francis Taylor, Byron Pott, Thomas Franklin, seamen.

**PROPELLE ARCTIC**—O. S. Simms, Lieut. Commanding; Watson Smith, Acting Master; John K. Kane, Assistant Surgeon; Harriet Newell, Radiogram; William Richardson, Acting Carpenter; Samuel Whiting, Acting Boatswain; Robert Bruce, Boatswain's Mate; John May Van Dyke, Steward; William Groves, John Thompson, Abram Haskell, Walter Wilkinson, George Bidwell, James Bottford, George Price, John Brown, Joseph Brown, Richard Hartley, Gey Taylor, John Fox, John Gilbert, seamen.

Three of the above individuals were with Lieut. De Haven in his expedition in search of Sir John Franklin, via. Wm. S. Lovell and John Blinn, of the *Relieve*, and Robert Bruce, of the *Arctic*.

**THE POISONING CASE**.—The Abingdon Democrat has the following additional intelligence concerning the poisoning of the wedding party assembled in Scott County, on the occasion of the marriage of H. S. Kane, Esq.

"Mr. Bishop has since died from the effects of the poison, and we learn that seven or eight more were not expected to survive—among them three of the sons of Mrs. Neal, residing at Stock Creek, near Clinch river. A negro has been arrested, (whether man or woman we could not ascertain,) and we learn that there is strong reason to believe that he or she was instigated to the act by a white woman."

The Abingdon Virginian also announces the death of Mr. Bishop, but says that the occurrence was accidental, resulting from a poisonous ingredient put into the custard by mistake to flavor it.

**THE INTELLIGENCER**.—The New Orleans papers of the 3d ult., contain an official notification by the Board of Health that the cholera had assumed an epidemic form. The picture of the same date says—"We are glad to be able to announce, on the authority of the experience of some of our physicians in extensive practice, that the disease which a few days ago threatened severely to afflict the city in consequence of the nausie of the water which the drought has forced into use, has materially decreased with the past two or three days. We confidently believe that it will be found to have disappeared altogether in the course of a short time."

**IN THE NEW YORK CITY COURTS**.—In the New York City Council, on the evening of the 4th, a little row occurred. The notorious Alderman Bailes had a quarrel with Alderman Howard, who became so excited as to throw a sand-box at the head of the former.

**THE LIQUOR RIOT AT PORTLAND**.—The Portland, Maine, papers contain various but somewhat conflicting particulars of the riot in that city on Saturday night. One of the accounts alleges that the riot grew out of the opposition to the purchase of some \$1,600 worth of liquor by Major Neal Dow, for the use of which he said of the city. Mr. Dow, it is alleged, made the purchase in New York, on his own responsibility and by bringing the liquor into Maine, it was contended he had violated the "Maine Law," as the transfer to the city was not made until three weeks after the purchase, and not until after a warrant had been issued against him from the infraction of this law, and then only by his own casting vote in session the liquors were seized by an officer, and he commenced the excitement. We quote first from the Portland Argus and then from the Advertiser:

Quite a little crowd stood about the door where the liquors were stored, and in the vicinity, during the remainder of the afternoon, but perfect quiet and apparent good nature was observed. Soon after 7 o'clock a crowd began to collect about the deposit of the liquors in the City Hall Building, and gradually increased until 9 o'clock, when a fire of fire was raised, as we understand, by Mayor Dow's order, and the bells rang with a view of diverting the crowd from the spot. It had, however, a contrary effect, and greatly increased it for a time, as the engine companies were brought from both extremes of the city to the centre of the riot. While the Aldermen were in session the liquors were seized by an officer, and he commenced the excitement. We quote first from the Portland Argus and then from the Advertiser:

Resolved, That while we regret that the confidence of the people in the integrity of those principally charged with the administration of justice is in a great measure impaired by the recent course of events which has invited opposition to the city authorities, we do nevertheless, in view of the time of day, and the fact of violence or any breach of the peace by the people of the city, do hereby adjourn the session of the Board of Aldermen. While the Aldermen were in session the liquors were seized by an officer, and he commenced the excitement. We quote first from the Portland Argus and then from the Advertiser:

Resolved, That while the shedding of blood by the order of the mayor, can only be justified as an act of extreme necessity, and then only in conformity to legal principles, which majority should be made so clear as to preclude the chance of any sense of injustice of feeling of revenge on the part of the friends of any man summarily put to death.

Resolved, That for the due and proper investigation of the conduct of Neal Dow, mayor of the city, in reference to the discharge of the duties of his office, as well as in regard to the proceedings of Saturday night, June 4, 1855, which resulted in the loss of life, a committee of men be appointed to cause such investigation to be made, authority to take such action in the premises as the peace and good order of the city may require, and to report in writing or otherwise, at their discretion, and to aid the officers of justice in view of the same and momentous crisis the history of the city.

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